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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,490	12/08/2000	Richard E. Rowe	29757/P-346	2394

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11/19/2003

Martin J. Hirsch
Marshal, O'Toole, Gerstein, Murray & Borun
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-6402

EXAMINER

ENATSKY, AARON L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,490

Applicant(s)

ROWE, RICHARD E.

Examiner

Aaron L Enatsky

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 52-73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 52-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Examiner acknowledges receipt of amendment on 6/24/03. The arguments set forth in the response are addressed herein below.

Claim Rejections -35 USC .103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 52-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EZ Pay System (Hereafter, EZ) in view of US Patent No. 5,056,141 to Dyke in view of US Patent No. 5,995,630 to Borza and further in view of US Patent No. 5,764,789 to Pare, Jr. et al. ("Pare"). In re 52-73, EZ through Applicants disclosure teach of a casino gambling system having a server, a clerk validation terminal, a plurality of casino gambling units, a cashier computer, and a ticket reader (Fig. 1 and Page 1-2 of Applicant's disclosure). Each of these items have components well known to those skilled in the art, such as credit-input, value dispenser, validation controller, display, and game controller. Further the games disclosed are commonly found casino games such as video poker, blackjack, and slot. Variations of the game system claimed by applicant remove the clerk validation terminal, which is also supported by EZ. EZ is lacking a cashier transaction device that is capable of supporting user authentication through the use of biometric controls, which would replace traditional user system authentication by a password or similar method. Dyke teaches a biometric access/restriction solution applicable in with respect to

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financial accounts as well as other stored sensitive data (1:10-16). The various biometric techniques employed to verify user access are retinal pattern, finger, and voiceprint scanning (1:33-35). Evidence to support the combination of EZ in view of Dyke can be seen as EZ is concerned with access security as is the entire gaming industry, and Dyke is concerned with general access protection in various field, which include financial accounts. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify EZ's authentication system to include biometric scanning in the cashier controller as taught by Dyke to increase financial transaction security and prevent unauthorized system access. EZ in view of Dyke do not however teach using multiple biometric inputs to generate composite digital data and the composite combination generated by averaging image data. Borza teaches biometric input as a method of access and using a computer (Claim 1). Borza further teaches that as a single image often provides poor image quality, biometric input data is gathered using more than one image to generate an image composite (13:3 1-5 5). The composite image data is generated by averaging the captured biometric digital images, which is well known in the art of digital image processing (13:47-55). One would be motivated to modify EZ in view of Dyke to include the averaged biometric image data taught by Borza, to increase the likelihood of a positive match and decrease system errors from poor images. EZ in view of Dyke in view of Borza does not explicitly reference the use of prompts to garner user biometric input for each number of scans. However, prompting for user input is considered notoriously well known in the computer arts, wherein the manner of providing user direction to access a system through prompts would foster assurance that proper input by the system is received. For support, one need only take a cursory glance in the art to find recitations of systems prompting a user to enter

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biometric input. Pare provides such support by disclosing a biometric access system that prompts a user for biometric input, wherein a user can be prompted for at least two inputs (13:1-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include user prompts to gain biometric data to insure necessary data input is received from a user.

As is discussed above, the biometric system uses retinal pattern, finger, and voiceprint scanning, which obviates the use of a fingerprint scanner, eye scanner, camera, and microphone.

In regard to voice digitization, voiceprint scanning would require comparison to previously stored voiceprints, therefore obvious to one of ordinary skill that the voiceprint would need to be digitized for comparison purposes.

In regard to criteria for authentication, capturing a plurality of biometric data sets is claimed, whereas Dyke teaches meeting one or more of the biometric criteria for authentication (1:22-23).

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 5,615,277 to Hoffman teaches prompting for biometric input that is in the form of voice data.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 52-73 have been considered but are not considered persuasive. While the specifics of a first and second prompt, or any number of prompts were not expressly stated in the prior rejection, the subject matter in question is

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considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. In support of this view, Examiner has provided additional teachings of prompting a user for biometric data input.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron L Enatsky whose telephone number is 703-305-3525. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6 M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa Walberg can be reached on 703-308-1327. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

Aaron Enatsky
November 13, 2003


Teresa Walberg
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700